12 ~~17~~. (Three times amended) A vector for expressing interferon-α in *E. coli*, comprising an *E. coli* alkaline phosphatase (phoA) promoter operably linked to a [DNA molecule] nucleotide sequence coding for the signal peptide of the heat stable enterotoxin II (STII) of *E. coli*, wherein said nucleotide sequence coding for the signal peptide is operably linked to a [DNA molecule] nucleotide sequence which codes for mature human interferon-α.

15 ~~21~~. (Twice amended) The vector of claim 12 ~~17~~, wherein said [DNA molecule coding] nucleotide sequence which codes for interferon-α comprises the sequence:

T460X

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TGT GAT CTG CCT CAA ACC CAC AGC CTG GGT AGC AGG AGG ACC
TTG ATG CTC CTG GCA CAG ATG AGG AGA ATC TCT CTT TTC TCC
TGC TTG AAG GAC AGA CGT GAC TTT GGA TTT CCC CAG GAG GAG
TTT GGC AAC CAG TTC CAA AAG GCT GAA ACC ATC CCT GTC CTC
CAT GAG ATG ATC CAG CAG ATC TTC AAT CTC TTC AGC ACA AAG
GAC TCA TCT GCT GCT TGG GAT GAG ACC CTC CTA GAC AAA TTC
TAC ACT GAA CTC TAC CAG CAG CTG AAT GAC CTG GAA GCC TGT
GTG ATA CAG GGG GTG GGG GTG ACA GAG ACT CCC CTG ATG AAG
GAG GAC TCC ATT CTG GCT GTG AGG AAA TAC TTC CAA AGA ATC
ACT CTC TAT CTG AAA GAG AAG AAA TAC AGC CCT TGT GCC TGG
GAG GTT GTC AGA GCA GAA ATC ATG AGA TCT TTT TCT TTG TCA
ACA AAC TTG CAA GAA AGT TTA AGA AGT AAG GAA (SEQ ID NO:6)
```

or a sequence encoding interferon-α which has more than about 70% sequence identity with this sequence.

16 ~~24~~. (Once amended) The vector of claim 12 ~~17~~, wherein said [DNA molecule coding] nucleotide sequence which codes for interferon-α comprises the sequence:

T461X

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GAATTCGAGATTATCGTCACTGCAATGCTTCGCAATATGGCGCAAAATGACCAACAG
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CGGTTGATTGATCAGGTAGAGGGGGCGCTGTACGAGGTAAAGCCCGATGCCAGCATT

CCTGACGACGATACGGAGCTGCTGCGCGATTACGTAAAGAAGTTATTGAAGCATCCT

CGTCAGTAAAAAGTTAATCTTTTCAACAGCTGTCATAAAGTTGTCACGGCCGAGACT

TATAGTCGCTTTGTTTTTATTTTTTAATGTATTTGCTCGAGAGGTTGAGGTGATTTT

ATG AAA AAG AAT ATC GCA TTT CTT CTT GCA TCT ATG TTC GTT

TTT TCT ATT GCT ACA AAT CCC TAT GCA TGT GAT CTG CCT CAA

ACC CAC AGC CTG GGT AGC AGG AGG ACC TTG ATG CTC CTG GCA

CAG ATG AGG AGA ATC TCT CTT TTC TCC TGC TTG AAG GAC AGA

CGT GAC TTT GGA TTT CCC CAG GAG GAG TTT GGC AAC CAG TTC

CAA AAG GCT GAA ACC ATC CCT GTC CTC CAT GAG ATG ATC CAG

CAG ATC TTC AAT CTC TTC AGC ACA AAG GAC TCA TCT GCT GCT

TGG GAT GAG ACC CTC CTA GAC AAA TTC TAC ACT GAA CTC TAC

CAG CAG CTG AAT GAC CTG GAA GCC TGT GTG ATA CAG GGG GTG

GGG GTG ACA GAG ACT CCC CTG ATG AAG GAG GAC TCC ATT CTG

GCT GTG AGG AAA TAC TTC CAA AGA ATC ACT CTC TAT CTG AAA

GAG AAG AAA TAC AGC CCT TGT GCC TGG GAG GTT GTC AGA GCA

GAA ATC ATG AGA TCT TTT TCT TTG TCA ACA AAC TTG CAA GAA

AGT TTA AGA AGT AAG GAA TGATAACGATCGTAACTGCA(SEQ ID NO:7)

or a sequence encoding interferon-α which has more than about 70% sequence identity with this sequence.

Remarks

None of the Amendments add new matter. Amendment of claims 17, 21, and 24 to replace "DNA molecule" with "nucleotide sequence" renders the claims clearer and provides consistent terminology. Support for the amendment to claims 17, 21 and 24 is found, *inter alia*, at specification page 6, lines 12-13, as well as claim 1. This Amendment was not made earlier as it the ambiguity in claim terminology was only just discovered. Amendment to these claims corrects a formal matter, without changing the scope of the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be entered.